United States Patent [19]

Heath et al.

[11] **Patent Number: 4,760,386**

[45] **Date of Patent: Jul. 26, 1988**

[54] **AUTOMATIC HIDING AND REVEALING OF A POINTER DURING KEYBOARD ACTIVITY**

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[21] Appl. No.: **873,757**

[22] Filed: **Jun. 13, 1986**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[4] **G09G 1/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **340/709**; 340/710; 340/711

[58] **Field of Search** 340/706, 707, 708, 709, 340/710, 711, 712, 724; 178/18

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A pointer controlled by a pointing device, such as a mouse, is temporarily removed from a visual display screen when a first character is being updated on the screen. The pointer is left hidden from the screen until the event causing screen updating has been idle for a predetermined period of time. The pointer is not removed from the screen if the keystroke or other hiding event is invalid in the current context of the application program. The pointer is also immediately redisplayed if an event associated with the pointing device, such as either pointing device movement of pointing device button clicking, is detected.

20 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets